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**AFGHANISTAN**

## ROAD UPDATE

April 16 – April 30 • 2005 • Issue 40

### Kandahar-Herat Highway

The Kandahar-Herat Highway connects the southern and western parts of Afghanistan, extending from Kandahar to Herat city. This 557 km stretch of highway is part of the “Ring Road”, which interlinks the main cities of Kabul, Kandahar, and Herat. USAID is reconstructing 326 km of the Kandahar-Herat Highway, while Saudi Arabia and Japan are each responsible for a 116 km section. The Japanese have stopped heavy construction due to recent security and demining concerns, in which insurgents burned three pieces of the contractor’s equipment. Their security plan is now under review. Small scale work, such as survey and culvert work, continues. The Ministry of Public Works has still not awarded a contract for the Saudi section. USAID has committed to providing the demining (already started), security, and assistance in the selection of contractors for the Saudi section.

Along the US portion, in Section 3 (Km 231-356) de-mining and surveying continues in the southern portion of the section. Rubblizing and paving of crushed aggregate base course and asphalt treated base have commenced. In Section 4 (Km 356-456), excavation and embankment work continues. Paving of crushed aggregate base course and asphalt treated base is underway. Culvert and bridge work continues. In Section 5 (Km 456-557), camp construction is nearing completion. Roadwork and culvert surveying, soil investigations, and stockpiling rock for use in the crushed aggregate base continue as well as construction of diversion roads.

USAID incorporates capacity-building, a principal component of development and reconstruction assistance, into road reconstruction efforts in order to increase the participation and commitment of Afghans. Afghans assisting on the road effort gain valuable skills, enabling them to eventually maintain their roads. During this period, 1,115 Afghans were employed to reconstruct the Kandahar-Herat highway.



*Paving of asphalt treated base, Section 4*



*Road engineers check the slope in preparation for reconstruction, Section 3*



*A completed culvert extension, Section 4*



#### Kandahar-Herat Highway Sections

- Japanese Section
- Saudi Section
- US Section 3
- US Section 4
- US Section 5

#### Guide for the Non-Road Engineers: Construction Flow



## Secondary Roads Highlights

Afghanistan's record snowfall this past winter and subsequent flooding have been a particular challenge for road reconstruction efforts, both on the secondary roads and Kandahar-Herat Highway.

Secondary Road	Progress to date
Kabul-Gardez Road (122km)	Placement of paving base course nearly complete; asphalt wearing course paving continues per the new pavement design.
Pul-e Alam to Ring Road (35km)	Embankment, excavation, and sub-base work continues.
Jalalabad-Asmar Road (122km)	Sub-base work and demining continues.
Kandahar-Tirin Kot Road (148km)	Crushed aggregate base and DBST paving ongoing in Section 2; striping continues in Section 1.
Panjsher Road (69.2km)	Culvert work continues.
District Roads	Work continues in over 12 district centers.
Urban Roads	US Embassy bypass road (Shash Darak) is complete and ready for an opening ceremony. Capacity of the two lowest bidders on Airport (Bi bi Mahro) Road is being evaluated.
Sheberghan to Sari Pul Road (54km)	Camp construction nearing completion. Sub-grade and embankment work ongoing. Sub-base and culvert work continues.
Farah-Ring Road (70km)	In early stages of staffing and pre-construction.
Lashkar Gah-Ring Road (49km)	In early stages of staffing and pre-construction.
Ghazni-Sharan Road (57.5km)	In early stages of staffing and planning. Demining has commenced.



Paving complete on part of Kandahar-Tirin Kot Road



Shash Darak Road BEFORE reconstruction



Shash Darak Road AFTER reconstruction

## Road-Related Security Incidents

This reporting period there were two vehicle accidents involving road reconstruction staff.

On April 23, on the Kabul-Kandahar Highway, the Security Coordinator for Section E died in a vehicle accident. Both his driver and bodyguard were injured in the accident.

On April 28, two road reconstruction staff and their driver were involved in a fatal traffic accident on Section 3 of the Kandahar-Herat Highway. The Security Coordinator died in the accident; the Site Engineer suffered multiple contusions and the driver suffered minor injuries. Both were successfully airlifted to the Kandahar military hospital for treatment.

Indicator (Hostile Attacks)	This Reporting Period	Cumulative Total FY05
Persons Kidnapped/Released	0/0	3/2
Persons Injured/Killed	0/0	5/2
Other Hostile Attacks	4	29